

I also request the Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the appropriate officials of all local units of government to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff during this Memorial Day on all buildings, grounds, and naval vessels throughout the United States and in all areas under its jurisdiction and control, and I request the people of the United States to display the flag at half-staff from their homes for the customary forenoon period.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourth.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4755 of May 5, 1980

Salute to Learning Day, 1980

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout our history, Americans have been committed to the ideas of education and learning. In the eighteenth century, the law often decreed that land be set aside in each township for public schools. In the nineteenth century, hundreds of towns that were scarcely more than clearings in the wilderness nevertheless had their Lyceums, named for the garden in Athens where Aristotle taught, and dedicated to public enlightenment. As our Nation grew, teachers in every town and city spread the love of learning and offered the opportunity to make the American dream come true. In the twentieth century, education has become available to Americans of all ages, both inside the classroom and through a widening range of facilities and technological aids that allow them to pursue whatever skills and knowledge they might wish from childhood through old age.

America's gifts to the world include not only our Constitution, the incandescent light bulb and the automobile, but the free public school and the land-grant college system.

From the beginning we Americans have found practical ways to organize ourselves to make our dreams reality. And so we have built schools, public and private, from log cabin classrooms in the backwoods to gleaming city campuses of steel and marble. Today, education is our Nation's largest enterprise. State and local governments have exercised primary responsibility for public education, gradually expanding its range. The Federal government has sought to ensure access to equal educational opportunity for all our people. Higher education—once the privilege of a tiny elite—is now within the reach of virtually every American. We have been able to build the most comprehensive and open system of public education in the world because of the continuing commitment of Americans to the essential freedom to pursue knowledge and truth, and to the principle that if the people are to rule, they must be prepared.

Now, to meet the needs of the generations to come, we have established a Department of Education to express our national commitment to education, to promote equal educational opportunity, to assist local authorities in their efforts to improve our schools, and to administer Federal education programs more efficiently.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim this day, the 7th of May 1980, as Salute to Learning Day in honor of this beginning.

I call upon all parents and students, all teachers and administrators, all lawmakers and public officials—I call upon all my fellow citizens to celebrate this day. As a people, let us dedicate ourselves anew to building an educational system which will cherish young people, instill self-discipline and prepare students for tomorrow's world; which will encourage scientific curiosity and foster artistic creativity; which will support research, reward good teaching and honor high intellectual accomplishment.

Only by making this commitment can we pass on a tradition of educational excellence and equal opportunity to Americans of the twenty-first century and give them the tools they will need to shape their own interpretations of the American dream and make their own contributions to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourth.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4756 of May 6, 1980

Tribute to Eight American Servicemen

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The names of the eight American servicemen who died in a mission of rescue in Iran will forever stand among the names of heroes. They were valiant men. They knew the danger of the task for which they had volunteered, and they were willing to confront that danger because they wished to right a terrible wrong.

At a time when the delicate, age-old patterns of diplomatic communication that help maintain the peace of the world are under direct attack, we have a great need of men and women ready to make the sacrifices that freedom and security require. The eight who gave their lives while attempting to free their fellow Americans from an illegal and intolerable captivity were such individuals. They knew the price that freedom can demand, and they were prepared to pay it. They laid down their lives for their countrymen, for their Nation's honor, and for the principles of justice and civilization. We mourn their loss; we admire their courage; we respect their dedication; and we reaffirm the principles for which they died.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces (36 U.S.C. 178) do hereby proclaim that, as a mark of respect to the memory of these brave men, the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff on all buildings, grounds and naval vessels of the Federal government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions upon notification of the provisions of this Proclamation until sunset on Friday, May 9.

I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other